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SUITE 1800
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22209-9889

In re Application of: Matsushige, et al.
Application No. 10/649,687
Filed: August 28, 2003
For: STORAGE UNIT AND CIRCUIT FOR
SHAPING COMMUNICATION SIGNAL

DECISION ON PETITION
TO MAKE SPECIAL
(ACCELERATED EXAMINATION)
UNDER M.P.E.P. §708.02 (VIII)

This is a response to the petition filed July 22, 2004, under 37 C.F.R. §1.102(d) and M.P.E.P. §708.02 (VIII): Accelerated Examination, to make the above-identified application special.

The Petition is **DISMISSED**.

M.P.E.P. §708.02, Section VIII which sets out the prerequisites for a grantable petition for Accelerated Examination under 37 C.F.R. §1.102(d) states in relevant part:

A new application (one which has not received any examination by the examiner) may be granted special status provided that applicant (and this term includes applicant's attorney or agent) complies with each of the following items:

- (a) Submits a petition to make special accompanied by the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(h);
- (b) Presents all claims directed to a single invention, or if the Office determines that all the claims presented are not obviously directed to a single invention, will make an election without traverse as a prerequisite to the grant of special status;
- (c) Submits a statement(s) that a pre-examination search was made, listing the field of search by class and subclass, publication, Chemical Abstracts, foreign patents, etc. The pre-examination search must be directed to the invention as claimed in the application for which special status is requested. A search made by a foreign patent office satisfies this requirement;
- (d) Submits one copy each of the references deemed most closely related to the subject matter encompassed by the claims if said references are not already of record; and
- (e) Submits a detailed discussion of the references, which discussion points out, with the particularity required by 37 CFR 1.111 (b) and (c), how the claimed subject matter is patentable over the references.

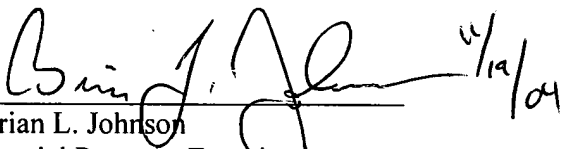
The petition filed July 22, 2004 fails to adequately meet requirement (e) of the criteria set forth above. With respect to requirement (e), all of the claims do not recite the particularly distinct features relied upon in applicant's arguments. Specifically, claims 3, 8, 10, and 13 do not recite the distinct feature of "wherein at least two of the disk drives of the storage unit input data to and output data from a disk control portion of the storage unit at different communication speeds". Also, none of the independent claims recite the distinct feature of "the storage unit has a plurality of communication paths provided to connect at least one of the disk drives in such a manner as to constitute a loop defined by the FC-AL fiber channel standards, so that the communication speeds can be set differently for these communication paths". Petitioner should ensure that the above discussion is directed to how the language of **each of the independent claims** are specifically distinguishable and patentable from the references provided in requirement (d) above.

In addition, applicant may wish to consider filing an Information Disclosure Statement (PTO-1449 or PTO-SB08A) to ensure consideration of the references cited in the petition by the assigned examiner.

Petition to Make Special **DISMISSED**.

Petitioner is given one opportunity to perfect the petition. Any request for reconsideration must be filed within TWO MONTHS of the mail date of this decision.

Until the renewed petition is submitted, the application will be returned to the examiner's docket to await treatment on the merits in the normal order of examination.


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